

# The Link

Connecting TPA to the Community and Beyond

Issue No.2 | February 2022



**PRINCIPAL**

Greetings!

After a very long hiatus from production, I am excited to revive this means of communication with all our stakeholders this year.

Keep in mind as you read through this that no matter what brings our students to us, we at Turning Point Academy, strive hard to provide meaningful learning experiences for them. We hope this newsletter will showcase some of the great things we have going on within our program.

Our students are not just local to Lynchburg, but from across the state of Virginia. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time if you would like information on how you or your organization could volunteer or help support our program. The opportunities are endless for successful outcomes if the community works together.

Sincerely,

Lauren Calloway, M. Ed

## Who Are We?

Turning Point Academy is the education program located within the Lynchburg Regional Juvenile Detention Center. We follow the Lynchburg City Schools academic calendar and academic pacing guides. The school day begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 2:45 p.m. Students are enrolled in a summer enrichment program two weeks after school ends and two weeks before school begins. Virginia SOL tests are administered during the fall and spring of each school year. In addition, ISAEP and GED services are available as well as IEP/504 assistance as deemed appropriate and required.



*“Realizing the Possibilities... Promoting the Change”  
Turning Point Academy Motto*

## Looking Back - Recap of Last School Year

As with all educational entities, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how we operated. We still managed to have triumphs through the tough times and wanted to share a few below:

- ❖ Two high school diploma students
- ❖ Two GED completers
  - Several passed three of the four tests before exiting our program to later complete and earn their GED
- ❖ Five industry certifications
- ❖ 100% Math SOL pass rate in Spring 2021
  - Ms. Johnson was our TPA Teacher of the Year

Interested in keeping up with news & events at Turning Point Academy?  
Send us an email to [turningpoint@lcsedu.net](mailto:turningpoint@lcsedu.net) and request to be added to listserv.

## Staff Celebrating Unity Day -2021



## LCS Education Foundation Grant Awardee

Submitted by: Mrs. Halsey, Art Teacher

Although our 20-21 school year brought a very different experience for everyone, the students at The Turning Point Academy still had a creative year. As an art teacher, I enjoy working with adolescents in a way that helps them express themselves through the arts. If there is one thing I have learned, it is that teens have a lot to express. They are constantly thinking and getting caught up in their feelings, but are not always good at communicating their feelings. That's where art comes in because words are not always enough.

Their art projects and activities are designed to introduce students to art throughout history while exploring various media and techniques. This provides a platform for students to plan, problem-solve, and to practice new skills. Students have opportunities to build positive character and to develop healthy relationships while participating in community service and character education activities. If desired, students may also make cards and art to share with their family members, especially during holidays.

Last school year we had the opportunity to purchase Kindle tablets, a digital camera, and various art supplies as we were awarded a grant from the LCS Education Foundation. Students were given the opportunity to explore creative art apps and to navigate some of the tools that are available in the Graphic Arts, such as drawing tablets, photo editing, and animation. Student engagement and enthusiasm were evident and students looked forward to using the tables for instruction. We have continued to use the Kindles and apps this year. We are looking forward to the program growing next year by introducing students to additional creative technologies.

## Technology in the Classroom

Submitted by: Mr. Forrest, History Teacher

Covid 19 has presented numerous challenges in the area of classroom instruction. Pre-Covid allowed the teacher and the students to interact and engage on a more personal level. Having the opportunity to be face to face, engage in one-on-one direct instruction, and participate in a corporate learning environment was for me a satisfying norm. Nevertheless, because of Covid 19, I was forced to change my methodology of classroom instruction.

At first, my feelings were rather indifferent because change is not always easy or comfortable, but now after having a year under my belt, I am happy to have had the opportunity to use various technology programs to assist in the delivery of instruction. Technology has afforded me the opportunity to use another tool to assist each student in reaching their full potential.

This year, I was fortunate to use Study.com as a major resource for classroom instruction. Most students were excited to be able to watch a short video on a particular topic and then answer five questions to assess their comprehension in that area within the Social Studies curriculum. Another new implementation at the Turning Point Academy was the usage of Google Classroom. Students were really excited about being able to navigate through this learning tool because lessons were readily available. They were also able to see their daily assignments and keep track of their missing assignments.

Probably the most important program introduced to teachers at Turning Point Academy, during this Covid era, was GoGuardian. It helped the teacher monitor student activity while they completed assignments on the computer. GoGuardian was a blessing to the educational program because it gave the teacher the opportunity to allow students freedom and space to complete assignments without the constant distraction of the teacher looking over the student's shoulder.

This has been an exciting and rewarding two years with the implementation of technology in the classroom. There have been learning pains, growing pains, and headaches along the way, but looking back, I would not change a thing. Special thanks to our Math teacher and our PE/Health teacher for their patience and help during this journey.

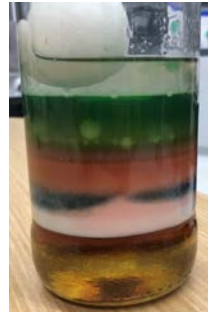
## Flex Friday - Science and Math Team Teaching

Submitted by: Mr. Boling, Science Teacher



In the spirit of layering instruction, the TPA education program decided to do some layering to illustrate the concept of density. The concept demonstrated involves using a combination of everyday items added carefully according to density. Adding the densest first and working toward the least dense being sure not to mix the liquids together. The procedure starts with honey, then maple syrup,

lite corn syrup, whole milk, dishwashing liquid, water vegetable oil, rubbing alcohol, and final lamp oil. Then items such as a bolt, a plastic bead, and a ping-pong ball are added to demonstrate how a liquid can be denser than a solid. Liquid food coloring is used for the water and rubbing alcohol to add contrast to those liquids. The liquids beginning with the whole milk require a turkey baster to be used, but the procedure seems to work better removing the bulb and using it as a funnel and pouring gently and slowly.



## Upcoming Events

While our events are not open to the public we do encourage school counselors, administrators, social workers, central office administrators, and probation/parole Officers to join us. If you would like more information on attending an event, contact Principal Calloway.

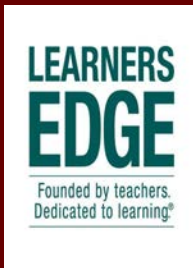
March 4th- Spelling Bee

March 17th- Pi Day celebration

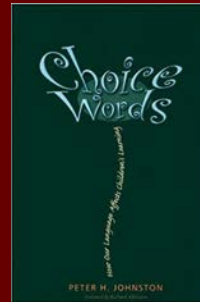
April 8th - History Bowl

June 8th- Field Day (From 8:30 am - to 1 pm)

## TPA Staff Professional Development



In addition to the PD offerings provided by State Operated Programs and Lynchburg City Schools, our staff has completed one book study, Choice Words, during first semester. For second semester, our team is taking a self-paced continuing education ten hour module through Learners Edge called Teaching 21st Century Skills Through the 4 Cs. During our staff meetings, we take the time to discuss what we are reading and how to make it most beneficial in the work we do with students.



## How can you help?

Unlike other programs, we do not have a Parent-Teacher Association and are not permitted to have fundraisers.

We depend on donations and volunteers to help fill the gaps in our program.

We are need of:

- Rewards for our PBIS incentive program
- Teacher Appreciation sponsors and/or gifts
- Math and GED tutors

Please reach out to us via email for ways to help at [turningpoint@lcsedu.net](mailto:turningpoint@lcsedu.net)

## Pictures From Detention Retreat



## Contact Us



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